

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Tabolina et al.

Application No.: 10/073,293

Filing Date: February 13, 2002

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-AMINO ACID USING BACTERIA BELONGING TO THE GENUS ESCHERICHIA

Art Unit: 1645

Examiner: Gangle, Brian J.

Attorney Ref. No.: US-1450

Confirmation No.: 3493

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 11, 2006, which set a 1-month shortened statutory period for response thereto, applicants hereby elect **Group I**, with traverse. Claims 1-3 are readable thereon. Applicants assert that it would not pose an undue burden to examine all the claims together, as the subject matters are related and would constitute and overlapping search.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present patent application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of the allowability of the present patent application is therefore respectfully solicited.

If Examiner Gangle believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite passage of the present patent application to issue, he is invited to call on the number below.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, if additional

extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and the requisite fee is hereby authorized to be charged to our deposit account, 50-2821.

Respectfully submitted,



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Reg. No. 39,571

Date: January 24, 2006

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